GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:35
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
EXAMINATION SYSTEM
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students reported to have committed suicide, before and after the declaration of results of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other equivalent examinations this year (2002) with the comparative figures for the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have studied the deficiencies in the present examination system as well as the environment that may be responsible for the depression and consequent suicide by students; and

(c) the steps taken to improve and reform the examination system and the environment as a whole?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 35 ASKED BY SHRI SUSHIL KUM SHINDE AND SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY REGARDING EXAMINATIONS SYSTEM.

A few cases of suicides related to examinations were reported in the news papers after declaration of Board results this year. However, statistics in this regard are not reported to this Ministry. The cases relating to depression and suicides are linked to a number of factors including individual personality, fast changing social dynamics, home environment, inability of children to cope with the demands and expectations of family, peer pressure and a situation in which career opportunities are very limited in relation to mounting number of aspirants and examinations being a major determinant of career path .

The Central Board of Secondary Education(CBSE) has already taken several steps to help the students to overcome their difficulties like:

• Arranging for a stress free environment in schools
• Deciding on Introduction of life skill education

• Elimination of overall aggregation of marks to reduce unhealthy competition among students

• Introduction of comprehensive and continuous school based evaluation

• Providing facility of compartment examination in two subjects in Class X and one subject in Class XII

• Providing three chances of compartment examination for Class X and XII

• Restructuring of questions in some of the important subjects such as Science and Mathematics.

• Publication of sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarize teachers and students about the nature of questions and question papers

Similarly, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has introduced measures like flexibility in the choice of subjects at the Secondary level, internal assessment, continuous involvement of schools/teachers in updating and revising the prescribed curriculum etc. to facilitate learning and reducing stress on students.

The CBSE has also started telecounselling on voluntary basis by the educationists, psychologists, psychiatrists and seasoned principals of the schools. It starts functioning before and during the examinations and also during declaration of results to mitigate and defuse the sense of anxiety and stress among the students. For 2002 examinations, CBSE had started helpline from 31 centres in and outside the country. Recognising the importance of Counselling parents in the matter, the CBSE has written to all CBSE affiliated schools for organising such counselling sessions.